

## SURGICAL PACKET FOR CLIENTS WITH SCHEDULED SURGICAL PROCEDURES

Your pet has been scheduled for a surgical procedure. In an attempt to make your pet's surgical day as smooth as possible, we have assembled this informative surgical packet for you. **Please make sure to read all of the information carefully.** You may contact us at (919) 362-1223 with any questions or concerns prior to the day of the surgical procedure.

The night before your pet's surgery, **you must fast your pet by withholding all food after 10:00 pm.** Water may be left down until 6 am the morning of the procedure but must be taken away after 6am. If you are currently administering any medications of any kind, withhold the morning doses unless otherwise instructed by your pet's doctor. **IF YOUR PET IS A DIABETIC, DO NOT GIVE THEM INSULIN BUT DO FAST UNLESS YOUR DOCTOR ADVISES YOU OTHERWISE.**

On the day of your pet's surgery we request that you come to our office between the hours of 7:30 and 8:00 am to drop off your pet. Expect this drop off to take approximately 15 minutes for full explanation of the procedure and signing of all forms. During this admission time your pet's veterinary nurse will go over two forms. The first form is a **Surgical Procedure Release Form** that allows our Doctors to perform the requested procedure. Our nurses will go over this form in detail and explain the surgical procedure to you. The nurse will ask if you have any questions regarding the procedure and will ask you to provide emergency numbers for us to contact you on that morning. The second form is a **Financial Treatment Estimate.** This form is specific for your pet and is not available on the website. This form clearly states the estimated cost of the procedure and requires your signature as acknowledgment of the payment procedures. At this time any additional requested procedures can be added. After the forms are signed and all your questions are answered, the nurse will take your pet to the Surgical Prep area to be prepared for the procedure.

Next, if Pre Anesthetic blood work is being performed, the nurse will collect the blood sample and present the completed lab work to your pet's Doctor for evaluation. At this time a complete pre-surgical physical exam will be performed by the Doctor and your pet will be assessed for surgical safety. As long as everything looks good, a mild sedative and pre-operative pain medications are given to your pet via injection and an IV catheter is then placed (if you have chosen this option). In some cases, an IV catheter is required but the veterinary nurse will let you know ahead of time if this is the case. After this, your pet receives their first stage anesthetic which is given IV. This anesthetic lasts approximately 10 minutes. Your pet is unconscious at this time. Monitoring equipment is attached, a thermal surgical circulating blanket is placed (to keep them warm and comfortable during and after surgery) and an endotracheal tube is placed. Your pet is then attached to the anesthetic machine (second stage anesthesia). The anesthetic nurse carefully administers the right dose of anesthetic and oxygen for your pet. The anesthetic procedure is monitored carefully by an anesthetic nurse while the surgical prep nurse

clips the appropriate area free of hair, surgically scrubs the incision area and helps the doctor to prepare for the procedure.

When your pet is moving into the surgery room you will be called at your emergency contact number to let you know when your pet's surgery should be started and completed. The procedure will be performed and a follow up call will be made to schedule an appropriate discharge time to go over any postoperative medications and procedures. Please allow 20 minutes for this dismissal visit. Typically most patients can be scheduled to go home between 3 and 6 pm, depending on how quickly they wake up. Older or overweight patients will recover slower and will need to stay more towards the later time period. During recovery, your pet will be continually monitored and IV pain medication will be administered to keep them comfortable. Most pets are able to sit up within 1 hour and are able to move around within 3-5 hours (depending on age, breed, weight and length of anesthesia). They will be fed a small meal as soon as they are able to swallow well. Post operative pain medication is always prescribed and is not optional.

### **Pre Anesthetic Blood Work**

Our greatest concern is the well being of your pet. For this reason, Pre Anesthetic Blood Work is always highly recommended and in some cases required prior to anesthesia. Pre Anesthetic Blood Work allows our doctors to determine the relative risk for anesthesia and to determine the best medications to use on your pet before, during and after surgery to help insure the best outcome. If your pet is older than 7 years of age, Blood Work is not optional and a Basic Pre Operative Chemistry Profile with CBC will be performed prior to the surgical procedure. If they are younger than 7 years of age, it is optional to you but highly recommended. The following explains the pre-anesthetic choices available to you:

#### **BASIC PRE OPERATIVE CHEMISTRY PROFILE WITH CBC:**

This option is recommended for patients having no outward signs of disease and who are less than 7 years of age. It is the basic profile required for surgery. It includes a full CBC which checks red blood cell (detects anemia), white blood cell (detects infection) and platelet (detects clotting ability) function. It also includes a mini chemistry panel that analyzes the organs that are important for anesthetic metabolism and recovery. It includes evaluation of BUN (kidney), Creatinine (kidney), ALKP (liver), ALT (liver), Glucose, Total Protein (dehydration, infection) and electrolytes.

#### **BASIC PRE OPERATIVE CHEMISTRY PROFILE WITH CBC, URINALYSIS AND THYROID:**

This option is recommended for clients with pets wanting a more comprehensive health evaluation prior to surgery. It includes all of the Profile above, but also includes evaluation of additional organ function including Albumin (infection, protein losing diseases), Amylase and Lipase (pancreatic function), AST, Tbil, Cholesterol, Triglycerides (liver evaluation and high cholesterol evaluation), Globulins (inflammation, infection) and CK (heart function), a thyroid evaluation (to detect low or high thyroid disease) and a complete Urinalysis (help to assess the liver and kidneys and helps detect

some bladder/kidney stones, signs of urinary tract infection/inflammation or dehydration).

The veterinary nurse will be available to explain these options on the day of surgery and will help you choose which panel you prefer.

#### **IV Catheter and Fluid Therapy:**

In addition to pre anesthesia blood work, an IV catheter and Fluid Therapy during your pet's surgical procedure and day stay with us is highly recommended. An IV catheter serves two main purposes, one is immediate access in the event of an unforeseen emergency. Just as important, however, is the purpose for recovery. IV sedatives, pain medication and anesthetics all reduce blood pressure during the surgical procedure which is hard on the kidneys and hard on the body during recovery. Warm IV fluids combat this decrease in blood pressure and help the liver and kidneys to work to metabolize the anesthetic quicker. This results in a much safer anesthesia procedure and a quicker recovery with less hangover effect. You will be asked to choose whether you want your pet to have an IV catheter placed during your admissions procedure. Note that some procedures require an IV catheter be placed.

#### **Laser surgery:**

Laser surgery is a recent technological advancement in veterinary medicine. Instead of using a steel scapel to make an incision, a surgical laser uses a beam of light. The advantages are many--- as the laser makes the incision it seals the nerve and vessel endings which results in significantly less bleeding (most of the time there is none) and because the nerve endings are sealed pain is minimized. The addition of laser to your pet's surgical protocol may be optional, depending on your pet's procedure. Sometimes, as with eye surgery or skin mass removal, the surgical laser is required. We will let you know if the surgical procedure your pet is undergoing has this as an option.

We hope that this surgical packet provides you with some comfort in knowing what will happen on the day of surgery and better prepares you for making important surgical decisions. Please feel free to contact one of our nurses or doctors to discuss the procedure your pet is having in detail. Also, if your pet is scheduled for a spay or neuter, please ask to view the videos we have in the office that explain the surgical procedure.

Thank you and we look forward to seeing you and your pet on the day of surgery.